

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION OF 12/02/2002

Applicants: Yoshiyuki Seki, et al.

U.S. Serial No. 09/896,565

Examiner: Thomas Y. Ho

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position, wherein the holding member engages the latch at the locking position and is disengaged from the latch at the unlocking position;

a first manipulator for opening the lid from an outer side of the box when the lid is closed, wherein the first manipulator moves the holding member from the locking position to the unlocking position;

C/ a key lock mechanism, which shifts the holding member, by an externally manipulated key, between an operational position, at which movement of the holding member by the first manipulator is enabled, and a non-operational position, at which movement of the holding member by the first manipulator is disabled; and

a second manipulator for opening the lid from an inner side of the box when the lid is closed, wherein the second manipulator moves the holding member from the locking position to the unlocking position, both when the holding member is in the non-operational position and when the holding member is in the operational position.

2. The lock according to Claim 1, wherein the second manipulator is formed integrally with the holding member.

C2 4. (Amended) The lock according to Claim 1, wherein the key lock mechanism includes a rotor rotated by the key, wherein the rotor is connected to the holding member.

5. The lock according to Claim 4, further comprising a restricting member for restricting a rotation range of the rotor.

6. The lock according to Claim 1, further comprising a biasing member for forcing the first manipulator toward a home position.

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7. (Twice Amended) A lock for a lid that opens and closes a box, the lock comprising:

a catch extending from an inner surface of the box;

a latch provided on the lid, wherein the latch engages the catch to prevent the lid from opening when the lid is closed;

a holding member, which moves between a locking position and an unlocking position, wherein the holding member keeps the latch engaged with the catch when located at the locking position and releases the catch from the latch when located at the unlocking position;

a first manipulator for opening the lid from an outer side of the box when the lid is closed, wherein the first manipulator moves the holding member from the locking position to the unlocking position when enabled;

a key lock mechanism, which shifts the holding member, by an externally manipulated key, between an operational position, at which movement of the holding member by the first manipulator is enabled, and a non-operational position, at which movement of the holding member by the first manipulator is disabled; and

a second manipulator for opening the lid from an inner side of the box when the lid is closed, wherein the second manipulator moves the holding member from the locking position to the unlocking position, both when the holding member is in the non-operational position and when the holding member is in the operational position.

8. The lock according to Claim 7, wherein the second manipulator is formed integrally with the holding member.

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C4 10. (Amended) The lock according to Claim 7, wherein the key lock mechanism includes a rotor rotated by the key, wherein the rotor is connected to the holding member.

11. The lock according to Claim 10, further comprising a restricting member for restricting a rotation range of the rotor.

12. The lock according to Claim 7, further comprising a biasing member for forcing the first manipulator toward a home position.

13. (Twice Amended) A lock for a lid that opens and closes a box, the lock comprising:

a catch extending from an inner surface of the box;

a latch provided on the lid, wherein the latch engages the catch to prevent the lid from opening when the lid is closed;

C5 a holding member, which moves between a locking position and an unlocking position, wherein the holding member keeps the latch engaged with the catch when located at the locking position and releases the catch from the latch when located at the unlocking position;

a first manipulator for opening the lid from an outer side of the box when the lid is closed, wherein the first manipulator moves the holding member from the locking position to the unlocking position; and

a second manipulator formed integrally with the holding member for opening the lid from an inner side of the box when the lid is closed, wherein the second manipulator moves the holding member from the locking position to the unlocking position; and

a key lock mechanism, which shifts the holding member, by an externally manipulated key, between an operational position, at which movement of the holding member by

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the first manipulator is enabled, and a non-operational position, at which movement of the holding member by the first manipulator is disabled, wherein the second manipulator moves the holding member from the locking to the unlocking position both when the holding member is in the non-operational position and when the holding member is in the operational position.

14. The lock according to Claim 13, wherein the key lock mechanism includes a rotor rotated by the key, wherein the rotor is connected to the holding member.

15. The lock according to Claim 14, further comprising a restricting member for restricting a rotation range of the rotor.

16. The lock according to Claim 13, further comprising a biasing member for forcing the first manipulator toward a home position.

Please add the following claims to the above-identified application:

17. (New) A lock for a lid that opens and closes a box, wherein one of the box and the lid is a first part and the other is a second part, the lock comprising:

a latch provided on the first part, wherein the latch engages a catch, which is on the second part, to prevent the lid from opening when the lid is closed;

a holding member, which moves between a locking position and an unlocking position, wherein the holding member engages the latch at the locking position and is disengaged from the latch at the unlocking position;

a first manipulator for opening the lid from an outer side of the box when the lid is closed, wherein the first manipulator moves the holding member from the locking position to the

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unlocking position;

a key lock mechanism, which shifts the holding member, by an externally manipulated key, between an operational position, at which movement of the holding member by the first manipulator is enabled, and a non-operational position, at which movement of the holding member by the first manipulator is disabled;

a second manipulator for opening the lid from an inner side of the box when the lid is closed, wherein the second manipulator moves the holding member from the locking position to the unlocking position; and

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said second manipulator having a fragile portion that is broken due to excessive force applied to the second manipulator.

18. (New) The lock according to Claim 17, further comprising a member concentrating the force in the fragile portion.

19. (New) The lock according to Claim 17, wherein said fragile portion includes a notch formed in the second manipulator.